

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated on January 11, 2006.

Claims 1 and 7 are amended. Claims 1-9 are pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 does not raise any new issues.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment was not presented earlier because Applicant believed the claim to be patentably distinguished from the cited references. Applicant believes the new amendment places the claims in condition for allowance and respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of claims 1-4, 6, and 9 under 37 CFR 1.116.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Ulrich (U.S. 6,220,879).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited reference: a control lever which is rotatably connected to the gripper arm of the lever/pull handle, as recited in claim 1.

In contrast, Ulrich shows a leaf spring 17 which is not rotatably connected to grip 5 of lever 6. The Ulrich reference discusses that to a front plate 35, a socket 28 is secured which forms a carrier body for a switching element 11 and for a lever 6 via an axle 16. (Col. 3, line 13-16). The socket 28 is formed to a T-shaped profile, which together with its grooves 29 forms a vertical longitudinal guide for the lock 12. (Col. 3, lines 17-19). Accordingly, as described in the Ulrich reference (and as best shown in Figs. 2-4), the lever 6 is rotatably connected to socket 28 and lock 12 moves vertically with respect to the socket 28. The lock 12 and its leaf spring 17 cannot be rotated. The lock 12 can only move transversally in the guiding grooves 29, which means that the movement of the lock is vertical in regard to the socket 28. (For example, in an up position in Figure 3 and a down position in Figure 4). The direction of lock 12 is independent of lever 6 and grip 5. The lever 6 blocks or allows the movement of the lock 12, but the lever does not change the direction of movement of the lock. Accordingly, the lock 12 and the leaf

spring 17, which is part of lock 12, are not rotatably connected to the grip 5 of lever 6, as required by claim 1.

Claims 2-4, 6, and 9 include each limitation of their parent claim and are therefore also not anticipated by the cited reference. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Han et al. (U.S. 5,989,043).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited reference: a gripper arm which is an integral part of the lever/pull handle, and a control lever which is rotatably connected to the gripper arm of the lever/pull handle, as recited in claim 1.

In contrast, the Han reference discusses that bracket 140 is fixed to PCB 120. The bracket 140 functions as an adaptor to fix the handle 150 to the plug-in module. The handle 150 and the bracket 140 are separate, discrete items. Bracket 140 cannot be construed as being an integral part of handle 150. They are separate, discrete items performing different functions.

Claims 4 and 6 include each limitation of their parent claim and are therefore also not anticipated by the cited reference. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claim 7 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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Date 3/13/06

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 13 day of March, 2006.

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Signature